

not only have they had, since their independence, no enjoyment, under treaty, of the navigation now claimed, but that the provisions of the commercial treaty, concluded in 1794, and described as having been till lately in force, are in direct contradiction with their present demand.

It has finally been made to appear, that the treaties concluded by European Powers, as to the navigation of rivers, far from invalidating the rights of sovereignty in that particular, tend, on the contrary, to establish those rights; and that the general principle of protection, essential to sovereignty, dominion, and property, applies with peculiar force to the present case of the river St. Lawrence.